

**PENNS VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 16, 2017**

PRESENT:

Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission

Centre Hall	Pat Kirsch
Gregg Township	Doug Bierly
Haines Township	Charlie Valentine and Daryl Schafer
Miles Township	Ron Hough
Millheim Borough	Lauralee Snyder
Penn Township	Bob Fox and Leroy Young
Potter Township	Ron Grove and Jake Tanis

Other:

Nittany Engineering	Tibben Zerby
Centre County Planning and Community Development Office	Linda Marshall

Mr. Grove called the Reorganization Meeting of the Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Grove called for nominations for Chair. Mr. Bierly nominated Mr. Grove to serve as Chair. Mr. Tanis seconded the motion. Mr. Tanis moved to close the nominations. The nomination was unanimously approved.

Mr. Grove called for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Schafer nominated Mr. Fox to serve as Vice Chair. Mr. Bierly seconded the nominations. Mr. Tanis moved to close the nominations. The nomination was unanimously approved.

Mr. Grove called for nominations for Treasurer. Mr. Schafer nominated Ms. Kirsch to serve as Treasurer. Mr. Bierly seconded the nomination. The nomination was unanimously approved.

The Commission agreed that the Centre County Planning and Community Development Office will continue to serve as the Commission's Secretary.

REGULAR MEETING

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

APPROVAL of MEETING NOTES

Mr. Grove called for additions or corrections to the November 21, 2016 meeting notes of the Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Bierly moved to approve the

November 21, 2016 meeting notes, as written. Mr. Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer Report

Mr. Bierly read the Treasurer's Report noting that there is a balance of \$290.46 in the account.

Secretary Report

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

**Act 537 Special Study for the Penns Valley Area High School
Tibben Zerby, Nittany Engineering**

Mr. Zerby explained that the special study for the Penns Valley Area School District's wastewater treatment plant was brought on by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) as part of its facility expansion project.

He added that PADEP would not re-permit discharging the district's sewage into a sinkhole. As a result, Nittany Engineering in working with the school district looked at five or six different options for sewage disposal.

The options considered were as follows:

- Conveying flows to the Gregg Township Sewer Authority or the Millheim Borough Sewer System
- Updating the existing treatment facility with retaining the existing sinkhole discharge location, a dry swale and/or stream discharge and a drip/spray irrigation system

Mr. Zerby explained that Millheim Borough is not technically feasible since the system is one mile further than the Gregg Township system and also the Millheim Borough system is currently organically overloaded and under a moratorium from any new connections.

Mr. Zerby stated that upgrading the existing system and discharging to a sinkhole would be too costly and that discharging to a dry swale in karst geology may result in the creation of sinkholes. The dry swale option would also require a hydrogeologic study.

In regard to spray drip irrigation, Mr. Zerby stated that sewage flows are high during the school, and if the ground is frozen or if it rains, the spray irrigation field cannot be used. During the times that the field cannot be used, the sewage would need to be stored in a huge storage facility.

The two technically feasible options that will be evaluated further are: conveying the sewage to the Gregg Township Sewer Authority and upgrading the existing systems and pump effluent to the nearest perennial stream for discharge.

Mr. Zerby remarked that the connecting to the Gregg Township Sewage Treatment System was the most cost effective option for the Penns Valley Area School District.

Mr. Tanis stated that his biggest concern is all of the pumps that will be needed, and he had noted that the pump motors die.

Mr. Tanis asked who designed the old system serving the school district. Mr. Zerby replied that he did not know but said that the system was designed in 1968 and updated in 1995.

Mr. Tanis commented that the school population continues to drop.

Mr. Zerby stated that the Penns Valley Area School District entered into a consent order and agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection that it would convey its sewage to the closest municipality. He added that the permit issued in 1968 had a clause, whereby, if a local municipal system becomes available the school district would connect to that system upon DEP consent.

Mr. Schafer asked Mr. Zerby if the Gregg Township system has the capacity for the additional sewage. Mr. Zerby replied in the affirmative and stated that Gregg Township is treating 33,000 gallons per day but is permitted for 90,000 gallons.

Mr. Hough asked what the estimated cost of the project is. Mr. Zerby replied that the cost will be \$3 million.

Mr. Zerby stated that the design for the new system would be put out for bid.

Mr. Fox commented that he would be interested in seeing the projected cost per month for the method of handling the district's sewage.

The cost will be based solely EDUs (equivalent dwelling unit) or the meter flows.

Mr. Zerby added that the Penns Valley Health and Welfare Association will also be connected to this system.

REPORTS:

Centre Hall Borough

No report

Gregg Township

No report

Haines Township

Mr. Schafer stated that the Township is close to adopting the zoning ordinance. He added that Mr. Bob Jacobs, Director of the Centre County Planning and Community Development Office, made some changes to the zoning ordinance based on the input

Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission

Meeting Notes

January 16, 2017

Page 4

received and that public education meetings will be held on the revised final draft.

Mr. Schafer believes that the ordinance should be adopted in the next 12 months.

Mr. Schafer also noted that the Township has had trouble finding volunteers to serve on Boards.

Miles Township

No report

Millheim Borough

Ms. Snyder stated that the Borough is working through parking issues that were identified as part of the SR 45 Safety Study. He added that the next step is to conduct a traffic study, which should be completed in the near future.

Penn Township

Mr. Fox reported that the Township has had a normal winter.

Potter Township

Mr. Grove reported that the Township is close to being shovel ready on the Potters Mills sewer project; however, the project will not move forward if PennVest does not fund the project.

OLD BUSINESS

-Tri-Municipal Park and Recreation Committee Report

Mr. Tanis reported that the municipalities are closer to getting the cell tower erected in the park.

-Regional Comprehensive Plan Implementation

After reviewing the draft list of goals for the update of the Penns Valley Regional Comprehensive Plan, the Commission members directed Ms. Marshall to forward the draft goals to the municipalities to consider and for the municipalities to provide any input by the Regional Planning Commission's March 20th meeting.

-Discuss the agenda for the March 2017 meeting

At the November 21, 2106 meeting of the Regional Planning Commission, the representatives decided to extend an invitation to the area's legislators to attend the March 20th meeting in order to initiate a discussion on the expansion of internet service in the region.

Following a discussion about internet service, Mr. Schafer recommended that the Commission invite someone with expertise on broadband and wireless facilities in order to educate the members on the issue. He recommended Mr. Jim Baker who spoke at the Centre County Township Officials Association's Spring Meeting. The Commission members agreed that more information is needed. Ms. Marshall will follow up on Mr. Schafer's recommendation.

INFORMATION ITEMS

There was no information items shared with the Commission.

FOR GOOD OF THE ORDER

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mr. Tanis moved to adjourn the January 16, 2017 meeting of the Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission at 8:20 p.m. Mr. Schafer seconded the motion. The motion carried.